

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, April 17, 2000

Present: Billis, Bayless, Bendall, Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman, Runyan.

Absent: None.

Guests: Lisa Hitchcock, City Manager; Frank Svrcek; Judy Horton; Don Runyon; Stephanie Wuttke, The Independent; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Gene & Shirley Sanderson; Dick Sanderson; Doug Albrant; Larry LeCureux; Clark Long; Arnold Dunchock; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Billis at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Hornus moved, Bendall seconded to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Bayless, Bendall.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Runyan, Bendall, Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Hornus moved, Ockerman seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Bayless, Hornus, Bendall, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Dick Sanderson, 224 W. McNeil Street, asked if the person who lives behind him was sent a letter regarding the stones and trees. Ms. Hitchcock advised no because after speaking to the garbage company, she did not feel it was necessary to inconvenience the person since it would not make a difference on how the garbage trucks turn into the alley. Mr. Sanderson asked if there is an ordinance about blowing grass into the gutter. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes. Mr. Sanderson stated there is someone on W. McNeil Street blowing grass into the gutter. Ms. Hitchcock advised she saw the situation today. Councilperson Ockerman asked if the police department would act on this situation if they observe it happening. Ms. Hitchcock advised, generally they would go to the door and inform the owner. Don Runyon, 563 Cary Street, stated he would like someone to talk to the people on the southeast corner of Ferry Street and Shiawassee Street about their fence. He would like them to put their fence back up or remove the junk from their yard. Mr. Runyon advised he would like the city to find out if a right turn

lane could be put on M-21 at Shiawassee Street. There are people who come down M-21 with their right turn signal on, go through the intersection and turn into K-Mart. One of these days someone is going to get hit at the intersection. Ms. Hitchcock advised the Michigan Department of Transportation is looking at the intersection right now. Mr. Runyon asked if it was against the law to put his garbage can out by the road. Councilperson Dumond advised yes. Mr. Runyon asked if he would get a ticket and where was he supposed to put his garbage can. Councilperson Dumond advised by the back door or in the alley. Mr. Runyon asked if the garbage man knows he is supposed to pick up the garbage at the back door. Councilperson Dumond advised yes. Mr. Runyon asked to have Cary Street recapped or pea graveled. Councilperson Bayless asked Mr. Runyon if he wanted the whole street done or just south of Ferry Street. Mr. Runyon advised south of Ferry Street. He does not care about the rest of the street.

Judy Horton, 315 N. Dutcher Street, advised her daughter-in-law lives on Cary Street and she puts her garbage can out at the road because there is no gutter or sidewalk. Ms. Hitchcock advised Crestview Drive does not have a gutter either and her garbage is by her house. Mayor Billis stated he received a call from an individual who lives on Mack Street and they were not aware that they could not put their trash out by the road. He further stated this might be something to put in the newsletter. Councilperson Dumond advised a previous newsletter had an article about garbage pickup.

Dick Sanderson asked how many cars could be in one yard at a time. Councilperson Dumond advised the cars have to run and be licensed. Mr. Sanderson suggested having someone go down Mizner Street and see how many cars run at that house. Ms. Hitchcock advised she is aware of the residence Mr. Sanderson was referring to and the cars have been checked. Don Runyon advised Corunna Towing has a junkyard behind it. Mayor Billis asked if there was a violation pertaining to the Corunna Towing property. Ms. Hitchcock advised she would have to check into the situation.

Gene Sanderson, 609 S. Shiawassee Street, asked if anything has been done yet about the streetlight at the end of town. Ms. Hitchcock advised she wrote a letter to Consumers Energy after the last council meeting, but she has not received an answer yet.

Mayor Billis asked Arnold Dunchock if he had any questions for council. Mr. Dunchock advised he spoke with Ms. Hitchcock. Councilperson Dumond asked if his problem was being worked on. Mr. Dunchock advised he was contacted by Gary Palmer late Friday. Mayor Billis asked Ms. Hitchcock if the Michigan Department of Transportation had contacted her about how they are coming along in securing the right-of-ways. Ms. Hitchcock advised not since last week. Councilperson Runyan stated last Friday was the deadline and asked if the city was bypassing the deadline. Ms. Hitchcock advised the city was not bypassing anything. She further advised she told Mr. Dunchock there is nothing the city can do because they are state right-of-ways. Councilperson Ockerman stated Mr. Dunchock was looking for some cooperation. Mr. Dunchock stated he did not want to give something away that would destroy his ability to build. He further stated he does not want his problem to be the reason for the project not going through. He also stated he had some concerns and would be willing to try to work something out. Mr. Dunchock advised he was basically looking for something to be done by resolution. Mayor Billis asked what a resolution would explain. Mr. Dunchock advised there are

concerns that the project would be held up if his right-of-way is not obtained. He further advised he wrote a letter explaining he does not want to hold up the project because he is for the streetscape and the highway program but he does not want to destroy the buildability of the lot. He also advised he was unsure of who has the authority to make the decision, but he wants some kind of assurance before something is done with the property. Mayor Billis asked if the response he received from Mr. Palmer was in written form. Mr. Dunchock advised yes, Mr. Palmer gave him some regulations, which in turn triggered the next question on whether he can build on the lot. He further advised he was concerned with the right-of-way on Shiawassee Street and on Corunna Avenue. He also advised he does not want to do something that makes the property too small to build on. Mayor Billis stated it appeared the city did not answer Mr. Dunchock's question so he can make a decision. Mr. Dunchock stated, exactly, and he is not sure who can give him the answer. Councilperson Ockerman asked what the city could do other than assure him the city will work with him in every fashionable manner according to the laws and ordinances that are on the books. Mr. Dunchock stated he did not know if something could be done by resolution or by minutes of a meeting, but he was asking for every chance that can be given. Councilperson Hornus asked Mr. Dunchock if he was concerned with too much being cut off from the corner. Mr. Dunchock stated he was concerned with how it will impact the buildability of the lot. Councilperson Dumond stated Mr. Palmer would be the person to put the pieces together. Ms. Hitchcock stated Mr. Palmer has specified what set backs are required. The question that comes into play is what building is going to be there. Mr. Dunchock stated his question is if building will be possible. There is only so much footage and with all the right-of-ways and set backs the only building that can be done is on county property. Councilperson Hornus asked what the lot size was. Mr. Dunchock stated he was not sure. Ms. Hitchcock advised 40 feet by 140 feet. Councilperson Bendall asked Mr. Dunchock if he received an answer to his question about building something on the lot prior to the right-of-way situation. Mr. Dunchock advised no. Ms. Hitchcock advised something could be built, but it would be based on the size of the building and the setbacks. The set backs have to be the same as the height of the building. Mayor Billis stated it appeared that Mr. Dunchock does not have the answer he is looking for and suggested setting up a meeting with Mr. Dunchock, Mr. Palmer and Ms. Hitchcock to discuss what might work for Mr. Dunchock. Ms. Hitchcock stated a meeting would help Mr. Dunchock understand what Mr. Palmer sent to him. Mr. Dunchock asked if there are going to be any accommodations by the city and stated that is the part that is not being answered. Ms. Hitchcock advised the city does not know what will be built on the lot and this situation might have to go to the board of appeals. Councilperson Dumond stated every store on the west side of Shiawassee Street is built out to the property line and it does not appear there are any set backs on the front or side of the buildings. Ms. Hitchcock advised there are set backs in the zoning ordinance. Councilperson Dumond asked how the other buildings were built. Ms. Hitchcock advised they were built under the old zoning ordinance. She further advised the situation could be taken to the board of appeals and the argument could be that all of the other buildings are that way and they might grant the appeal. Councilperson Dumond stated he believed Mr. Dunchock has a legitimate argument to go to the board of appeals but nothing is guaranteed or in concrete. Councilperson Ockerman stated council could not give Mr. Dunchock any guarantees. The city council has certain limited powers and council cannot give him anything in writing by a deadline. Mr. Dunchock stated council has been accommodating, but the

state is saying the project will be torpedoed unless something is done by such a date. Councilperson Bendall asked if there are any numbers on the amount of property that would be cut out because of the right-of-way. Ms. Hitchcock advised 21.33 feet from each corner. Councilperson Bendall asked from the property line. Ms. Hitchcock advised from the corner. Councilperson Hornus advised the property has plenty of depth so Mr. Dunchock would have to go to the zoning board of appeals for a variance on the north and south side of the property. Mr. Dunchock agreed but stated if property is taken from Corunna Avenue and if the set backs are based on the height of the building, it could make it entirely impractical to build. Councilperson Runyan advised there is a planning commission meeting Wednesday night that Mr. Dunchock could attend to speak with Gary Palmer and he could get his answer there. Ms. Hitchcock stated she intends to meet with Mr. Palmer and Mr. Dunchock on Wednesday morning. Councilperson Ockerman stated he thought last Friday was the original deadline. Mr. Dunchock stated at one time the state was talking about condemnation if they did not receive his right-of-way. He further stated he was told if the state did not receive the right-of-ways by a certain time, they would cancel the project and that would be a big deal if that happens. Mayor Billis stated it would be a big deal but fairness is also a big deal and everyone should be fair to Mr. Dunchock. Mayor Billis asked if Mr. Dunchock would have to sit in front of the board of appeals to get his answer. Ms. Hitchcock advised the board of appeals would not be able to answer anything until a site plan is presented. Councilperson Hornus stated the board of appeals would need to know the size of the building that would be built. Mayor Billis asked if the information Mr. Dunchock received from Mr. Palmer was what he needed in order to pull the boundaries of the building if one is built. Mr. Dunchock stated it does essentially. Mr. Palmer gave an appropriate response in terms of the applicable ordinances. He further stated the answer he received did not come to some of the conclusions that he talked about earlier. He also stated it appears that a site plan would have to be done first in order to give land away to the State of Michigan and there is no site plan right now. Councilperson Dumond stated the council sympathizes with Mr. Dunchock. Mayor Billis stated Mr. Dunchock has some valid points and suggested bringing those points to the state. Mr. Dunchock stated the state told him what was needed to do the project and he was asked if he was going to do it or not. Councilperson Hornus advised Mr. Dunchock the council would do anything that is possible to help him out. Mr. Dunchock stated he did go out with the lady from the state and she was talking about the length of the property on the Corunna Avenue side. He further stated he is unsure as to what it was that will be given away and he was not sure if it was permanent or temporary. Mayor Billis stated if he was personally put in the position of being railroaded into doing something, he would tell them to hold off on the project. He further stated he believes the state is looking for a way to negotiate and to accomplish what needs to be done without condemnation. Mr. Dunchock stated he wanted to make it clear that he does not want to hold up the project and it is not about money. Councilperson Dumond stated it might be possible to build something towards the east and away from the corner. Mayor Billis advised Mr. Dunchock the city would be willing to work with him.

Don Runyon suggested running sewer lines to all of the buildings in the historical village for more bathrooms since a sewer line will be run to the new pavilion. As long as it is being done, it should be done right. Mayor Billis stated he performed a wedding last

weekend and the concept of performing weddings in the church without a restroom is a problem. A dry walkway and a paved road is also needed. Judy Horton stated the church should be thought of as a country and old-fashioned church out in the middle of nowhere. The village does not want cement walks or blacktop streets.

CONSIDER NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION DURING STREETScape CONSTRUCTION:

Councilperson Hornus stated he has always felt comfortable with sending out at least two newsletters. Councilperson Dumond stated there was also discussion about sending the newsletter out every six weeks instead of quarterly in order to get two newsletters out during the construction period. Councilperson Bayless advised there is a summer and fall newsletter and in his opinion another one is not needed. He further advised he does not know what would be put into the newsletters. The information for the newsletter has to come from someone and it needs to be valuable. He also advised the progress that will be ongoing will be very visible and does not feel the expense is necessary at this time. The money could be better spent somewhere else. Councilperson Ockerman stated he agreed with Councilperson Bayless. A meeting was held with the merchants but there was not a lot of participation. He asked what it would cost to send out a newsletter. Ms. Hitchcock advised \$500. Councilperson Ockerman stated he felt two newsletters would be enough. Ms. Hitchcock stated if a need arises to send out another newsletter, it could be brought back to council for consideration. Council agreed.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM CORUNNA PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO USE CITY HALL ,
FOUR PRIVACY BOOTHS, AND ONE BALLOT BOX FOR THE ANNUAL
SCHOOL ELECTION ON JUNE 12, 2000:

Hornus moved, Runyan seconded to approve the request from Corunna Public Schools to use city hall, four privacy booths, and one ballot box for the annual school election on June 12, 2000.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hornus, Bendall, Dumond, Bayless, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR MAY 15, 2000 AT 7:15 P.M. FOR ADOPTION OF ANNUAL
BUDGET:

Bendall moved, Hornus seconded to set a public hearing for May 15, 2000 at 7:15 p.m. for adoption of annual budget.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bendall, Bayless, Runyan, Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF BRETT JOHNSON TO PARKS & RECREATION
COMMISSION, MEMBER AT LARGE-CITY RESIDENT, TERM TO EXPIRE
DECEMBER 31, 2001:

Hornus moved, Bayless seconded to appoint Brett Johnson to Parks & Recreation Commission, Member At Large-City Resident, term to expire December 31, 2001.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman, Bendall, Runyan, Bayless.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF WATER NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to appoint Mayor James Billis and Lisa Hitchcock to the water negotiating committee.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Bayless, Bendall.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Gene Sanderson, 609 S. Shiawassee Street, asked if there was any way besides putting something in the Argus Press about the budget meeting to let all of the people in Corunna know. Maybe we can get a couple of hundred people down here to hear what is going on in this town. He suggested broadcasting the meeting on the radio, sending out flyers, or posting it somehow. Mr. Sanderson stated the same twelve people are here every week and there are probably a lot of people in town who would like to know where their tax money is being wasted. Councilperson Bendall stated it could be a part of what is reported from this meeting. Ms. Hitchcock advised it is put in the paper as part of the minutes, which is in the legal notice section of the paper. Councilperson Dumond asked if a public hearing notice would be published. Ms. Hitchcock advised that is correct. Mayor Billis stated council would need to decide if they want to spend the money to increase the viewability. Mr. Sanderson stated if people see something big in the paper, it might create a little interest to get people down to city hall. Councilperson Bayless agreed with Mr. Sanderson about having more people attend meetings. The problem is people are so busy in their every day lives they do not think this is important enough to take the time to attend. Councilperson Bayless stated people do not take part in town meetings like they did in the old days. Mr. Sanderson stated there has to be some reason why people do not come, and the city needs to give them a chance to make up their minds. Councilperson Bayless advised when he was in his 30's he never attended a city meeting, it was the furthest thing from his mind. Mr. Sanderson stated it is the people's tax money that is being thrown away. Councilperson Bayless stated he did not believe advertising the meeting would make a difference. If people want to be here and they felt it was important, they would be here. He further stated he appreciates everyone who does attend the meeting for taking the time to attend. He also stated council is trying to make a difference and council wants citizen input. Judy Horton stated she has been attending meetings for two years and she has sat alone in the audience many Monday nights. The best way to get people here is to put something in the paper that they are interested in. Mayor Billis advised people are complacent and people have told him they do not come down to city hall because they are not heard anyway. He further advised people, in general, all across the country have become complacent because they do not think their voice matters, but it does matter. He also advised advertising in a newspaper is not going to bring people in. The city might get a few more people to participate if a letter is sent to them asking them to participate or if they are approached personally. Mayor Billis stated not providing advertising to the community because they are complacent is a direction the city does not want to go. The city needs to make sure people are informed on what is going on in the city. He further stated just because people are complacent does not mean the city has to be complacent. The city should still do its job by going out and trying to get the public involved again and that is his and everyone's responsibility. He also stated council is representing the people and that is not what

government is about. Government is about representing the people and the people need to be heard even if they have to be brought in. Dick Sanderson stated there are people in his ward who do not even know who their councilperson is. He asked if councilpeople ever walk the neighborhood to see what the people want because he has not seen anybody out. Judy Horton stated councilpeople are busy too. Councilperson Dumond asked those in the audience if council has been fair to them. Dick Sanderson stated, no, because it takes too long to get answers. Judy Horton stated nothing can be done overnight. It takes time to get things done. Mayor Billis stated the public has got so much confidence in council doing a great job they feel they do not need to participate. He further stated he wishes the public would participate more and he personally has no desire to be involved in a sleeping community. He does not want to make the decisions for other people. He also stated the decisions do effect the people and they need to be a part of the decision.

ADJOURN: Hornus moved to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Runyan, Bendall, Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:18 p.m.

DR. JAMES BILLIS, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK